

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
SOUTHERN DIVISION**

In re:

CITY OF DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Debtor.

Chapter 9

Case No. 13-53846

Hon. Steven W. Rhodes

**OBJECTION TO CLAIM NUMBER 3657 FILED BY THE U.S. EQUAL
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION ON BEHALF OF KIM
SPICER AND CLAIM NUMBER 3451 FILED BY KIM SPICER**

NOW COMES, the City of Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (“DWSD”), by and through counsel, Kilpatrick & Associates, P.C., and for its Objection to Claim Number 3657 Filed by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission on Behalf of Kim Spicer and Claim Number 3451 Filed by Kim Spicer (“Objection”) states as follows:

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. This Court has jurisdiction over this Objection pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§157 and 1334.
2. This is a core proceeding pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §157(b).
3. Venue is proper before this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§1408 and 1409.

4. This Objection is brought pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §502(b)(1), Fed. R. Bankr. P. 3007, and L.B.R. 3007-1 (E.D.M.).

BACKGROUND AND FACTS

5. On July 18, 2013, the City of Detroit, Michigan (the “City”) filed a voluntary petition for relief under Chapter 9, Title 11 of the United States Code.

6. DWSD is a department of the City that has operational independence from the City in the areas of purchasing, human resources, law, and finance, pursuant to an order entered on November 4, 2011 in the case *United States of America v. City of Detroit, et. al.*, United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, Case No. 77-71100.¹

7. On December 3, 2013, this Court held that the City was eligible for relief under Chapter 9, Title 11 of the United States Code. See Order for Relief Under Chapter 9 of the Bankruptcy Code (Doc. No. 1946).

8. On November 21, 2013, this Court issued an Order, Pursuant to Section 105, 501, and 503 of the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rules 2002 and 3003(c), Establishing Bar Dates for Filing Proofs of Claim and Approving the Form and Manner of Notice Thereof (Doc. No. 1782) which established deadlines to file certain proofs of claim in this case (“Bar Date Order”). The Bar Date Order

¹ On May 8, 2014, the City filed a pleading with this Court recognizing that DWSD has an independent legal department from the City and is permitted to hire legal counsel and pursue legal matters affecting DWSD under certain orders entered in *United States of America v. City of Detroit, et. al.*, United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, Case No. 77-71100.

set the deadline to file proofs of claim as February 21, 2014. The deadline for governmental units to file proofs of claim was 180 days following the date of the entry of an order for relief.

9. On December 24, 2013, this Court issued an Order, Pursuant to Sections 105 and 502 of the Bankruptcy Code, Approving Alternative Dispute Resolution Procedures to Promote the Liquidation of Certain Prepetition Claims (Doc. No. 2302) (“ADR Order”).

10. After the ADR Order was entered, the City made DWSD responsible for liquidating certain DWSD related Designated Claims² through the ADR Procedures. DWSD retained counsel independent of the City’s to complete this process.

11. On February 21, 2014, Kim Spicer (“Claimant”) filed Claim Number 3451 (“Claim 3451”). A copy of the as-filed Claim 3451 as attached as Exhibit 1.

12. Claim 3451 seeks \$204,272.75 and the stated basis for the Claim is “Discrimination Based on Race and Retaliation.” The Claim also indicates that \$4,272.75 of the Claim is entitled to priority under 11 U.S.C. §507(a)(4).

13. Then on March 19, 2014, the U.S. Equal Opportunity Employment Commission filed Claim Number 3657 (“Claim 3657”) on behalf of Claimant. A copy of as-filed Claim 3657 is attached as Exhibit 2.

² Capitalized terms not otherwise defined herein have the meaning given to them in the ADR Order.

14. Claim 3657 seeks \$204,272.75 and the stated basis for the Claim is “Discrimination based on Race and Retaliation.” (Claim 3451 and Claim 3657 are referred to collectively herein as the “Claim.”)

15. On April 11, 2014, an ADR Notice was served upon the Claimant, which initiated the ADR Procedures set forth in the ADR Order. A copy of the April 11, 2014 ADR Notice is attached as Exhibit 3.

16. On June 10, 2014, an ADR Notice was served upon Dale Price, the Trial Attorney for the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity that filed Claim 3657. A copy of the ADR Notice is attached as Exhibit 4.

17. The Claim was not resolved through the Offer Exchange Procedures and proceeded to Case Evaluation.

18. Neither the Claimant nor a representative of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission appeared for the Case Evaluation.

19. At the Case Evaluation, the Claim was valued at \$100.

20. DWSD accepted the award, but due to the failure of the Claimant and the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to appear at the Case Evaluation and to respond to the Case Evaluation award, a rejection of the award was entered by the Mediation Tribunal. The Case Evaluation Results are attached as Exhibit 5.

21. The Case Evaluation Results were served on the parties on or about October 30, 2014.

22. DWSD and the Claimant were unable to negotiate a consensual settlement of the Claim during the 28 day period after service of the Case Evaluation Results as allowed by the ADR Procedures; and neither DWSD nor the Claimant consented to Binding Arbitration.

23. Pursuant to the ADR Order, “Designated Claims not resolved through the ADR Procedures shall proceed to litigation to be liquidated....Such litigation will be initiated by the filing of a claim objection by the City (a “Claim Objection”) within 35 days after the ADR Completion Date (the “Claim Objection Deadline”)....”

24. In accordance with the ADR Procedures, DWSD files this Objection to the Claim.

RELIEF REQUESTED AND BASIS FOR RELIEF

25. DWSD requests entry of an order disallowing the Claim.

26. Claim 3657 should be disallowed as untimely. Although filed by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Claim 3657 is not a claim of a governmental unit; therefore, the February 21, 2014 deadline applies.

27. Further, the Claim should be disallowed because no affirmative steps were taken to pursue the Claim through the ADR Procedures and, to date, no

evidence indicating that there is a colorable basis for the Claim has been proffered by the Claimant.

RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

28. DWSD files this Objection without prejudice to or waiver of the City's rights pursuant to Section 904 of the Bankruptcy Code, and nothing herein is intended to, shall constitute or shall be deemed to constitute the City's consent, pursuant to Section 904 of the Bankruptcy Code, to this Court's interference with (a) any of the political or governmental powers of the City, (b) any of the property or revenues of the City, or (c) the City's use or enjoyment of any income-producing property.

NOTICE

29. DWSD has provided notice of this Objection to the Claimant and all other parties who requested notice pursuant to Fed. R. Bankr. P. 2002. In light of the nature of the relief requested, DWSD respectfully submits that no other or further notice of the relief requested in the Objection need be given.

WHEREFORE, the City of Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, respectfully requests that this Court enter an order, substantially in the form attached hereto, granting the relief requested herein and granting the City of Detroit Water and Sewerage Department such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully Submitted,

KILPATRICK & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

/s/ Richardo I. Kilpatrick
RICHARDO I. KILPATRICK (P35275)
SHANNA M. KAMINSKI (P74013)
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Water and Sewerage Department
615 Griswold, Ste. 1708
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(313) 963-2581

Dated: December 30, 2014

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
SOUTHERN DIVISION**

In re:

CITY OF DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Debtor.

Chapter 9

Case No. 13-53846

Hon. Steven W. Rhodes

**ORDER GRANTING OBJECTION TO CLAIM NUMBER 3657 FILED BY
THE U.S. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION ON
BEHALF OF KIM SPICER AND CLAIM NUMBER 3451
FILED BY KIM SPICER**

This matter having come before the Court on the City of Detroit Water and Sewerage Department's ("DWSD") Objection to Claim Number 3657 Filed by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission on Behalf of Kim Spicer and Claim Number 3451 Filed on Behalf of Kim Spicer ("Objection"), which seeks the entry of an order disallowing Claim Number 3657 and Claim Number 3451 ("Claims"); the Claims having been designated for liquidation in accordance with the Order, Pursuant to Sections 105 and 502 of the Bankruptcy Code, Approving Alternative Dispute Resolution Procedures to Promote the Liquidation of Certain Prepetition Claims ("ADR Order"); the Claims having not been resolved through the procedures set forth in the ADR Order; DWSD having filed a timely Objection to the Claims in accordance with the ADR Order; the Court having found that it has jurisdiction over the Objection pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§157 and 1334; the

Court having found that this is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §157(b)(2); the Court having found that venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§1408 and 1409; the Court having found that due and proper notice of the Objection has been given; it appearing that no other or further notice of the Objection need be given; a hearing on the Objection having been held before the Court; any objection to the Objection having been overruled or withdrawn; and the Court finding that the legal and factual basis set forth in the Objection and at the hearing establish just cause for the requested relief;

NOW THEREFORE;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

1. The Objection is Granted.
2. Claim Number 3657 and Claim Number 3451 are hereby disallowed.
3. The City's claims agent is hereby authorized to update the claims register to reflect the relief granted in this Order.
4. The City and the City of Detroit Water and Sewerage Department are authorized to take any and all actions necessary to effectuate the relief granted.

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
SOUTHERN DIVISION**

In re:

CITY OF DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Debtor.

Chapter 9

Case No. 13-53846

Hon. Steven W. Rhodes

**NOTICE OF OBJECTION TO CLAIM NUMBER 3657 FILED BY THE U.S.
EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION ON BEHALF
OF KIM SPICER AND CLAIM NUMBER 3451
FILED BY KIM SPICER**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT the City of Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, by and through its undersigned counsel, has filed an Objection to Claim Number 3657 Filed by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission on Behalf of Kim Spicer and Claim Number 3451 Filed by Kim Spicer (“Objection”) seeking an order disallowing Claim Number 3657 and Claim Number 3451.

If you do not want the Court to grant the relief requested in the Objection, then on or before **January 28, 2015**, you or your lawyer must:

1. File with the Court, at the address below, a written response to the Objection. Unless a written response is filed and served by the date specified, the Court may decide that you do not oppose the Objection.

Clerk of the Court
United States Bankruptcy Court
211 W. Fort Street, Ste. 2100
Detroit, MI 48226

If you mail your response to the Court for filing, you must mail it early enough so that the Court will **receive** it on or before the date stated above. All attorneys are required to file pleadings electronically.

2. A copy of your response must also be mailed to counsel for the City of Detroit Water and Sewerage Department:

Richardo I. Kilpatrick
Kilpatrick & Associates, P.C.
615 Griswold, Ste. 1708
Detroit, MI 48226-3985

3. You must also attend the hearing on the Objection scheduled to be held on **February 4, 2015** at 10:00 a.m. in Courtroom 100, United States Federal Courthouse, 231 W. Lafayette Ave., Detroit, Michigan 48226 unless your attendance is excused by mutual agreement between yourself and the objector's attorney.

If you or your attorney do not take these steps the court may decide that you do not oppose the Objection, in which event the hearing will be canceled and the Objection sustained.

Respectfully Submitted,

KILPATRICK & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

/s/ Richardo I. Kilpatrick
RICHARDO I. KILPATRICK (P35275)
SHANNA M. KAMINSKI (P74013)
Attorneys for the City of Detroit
Water and Sewerage Department
615 Griswold, Ste. 1708
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(313) 963-2581

Dated: December 30, 2014

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
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In re:

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Debtor.

_____ /

Chapter 9

Case No. 13-53846

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on December 30, 2014, I electronically filed the Objection to Claim Number 3657 Filed by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission on Behalf of Kim Spicer and Claim Number 3451 Filed by Kim Spicer, which sends notice by operation of the Court's electronic filing service to all ECF participants registered to receive notice in this case, and mailed a copy of the Objection to Claim Number 3657 Filed by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission on Behalf of Kim Spicer and Claim Number 3451 Filed by Kim Spicer via first class mail to the following:

Kim Spicer
29357 Sandalwood
Roseville, Michigan 48066

Dale Price
U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
477 Michigan Ave., Room 865
Detroit, Michigan 48226

Dated: December 30, 2014

/s/ Shanna M. Kaminski
Shanna M. Kaminski (P74013)